



SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN NEWSLETTER

December 1, 2023



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Rosalynn Carter



I am dedicating this newsletter in honored of Former First lady Rosalynn Carter. Ms. Carter was the first lady when I started teaching. It is with her death, that I learned she had advocated for better mental health care (she also advocated for this when she was first lady of the State of Georgia) and reducing the stigma attached to mental illness. But learning that she attended Cabinet meetings and had her own office in the east Wing with staff, has made me reflect on how the Carter's partnership was truly equal. Their relationship should be remembered

as what equality means. The couple believed it and lived it. She will be missed.

Important Numbers Resources and Dates

District 2 Office

(707) 784-3031

Clerk of the Board & County Administrator's Office

(707) 784-6100

Veterans Services

(707) 784-6590

Health & Social Services

(707) 784-8400

Assessor/Recorder

(707) 784-6200

Resource Management

(707) 784-6765

Registrar of Voters

(707) 784-6675

Tax Collector/Treasurer/County Clerk

(707) 784-7485

Area Agency on Aging

(707) 784-8960

Meet Santa

You can meet Santa at the Benicia Veterans Memorial Hall **tonight, Friday, December 1, from 5 to 9pm**. The Hall is located 1150 1st Street in downtown Benicia.

Come and donate a new unwrapped toy or a couple of cans of food to support your local community during this season. Bring your kids for some hot chocolate, coffee for the adults and some holiday cheer. We will also be selling baked goods to help donate to our Veteran fundraiser.

Mare Island Night Light



Mare Island Light Night: Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration will take place from **5 to 7pm, tonight, Friday, December 1**, at the Savage & Cooke - An American Distillery, at 1097 Nimitz Avenue.

Holiday Open House and tree lighting

Benicia's annual Holiday Open House and tree lighting will take place tonight, **Friday, December 1 from 6 to 9pm** along First Street.

Merchants offer beverages and treats and show off their holiday goods while costumed carolers sing traditional Christmas tunes.

Live entertainment and Christmas Tree lighting add a festive atmosphere!

Annual Downtown Tree Lighting

The city of Fairfield will hold its annual holiday tree lighting ceremony, located in Downtown Fairfield. **The event will take place tonight Friday, December 1, and begin at 6 pm**. It will be located on Texas Street, between the blocks of Union Avenue and Madison Street. The tree lighting will take place on the corner of

U.S. Social Security

(800) 772-1213

SUICIDE PREVENTION

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

800-273-8255

SPANISH LINE

888-628-9454

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

800 799 4889

FRIENDSHIP LINE FOR SENIORS

800 971 0016

CRISIS TEX LINE

741741

THE TREVOR PROJECT FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

866-488-7386

TRANS LIFELINE PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

877-565-8860

Texas and Jefferson Streets, where the Christmas tree will stand. Mayor Catherine Moy will light the tree at 6:30 pm.

Festivities following the lighting ceremony include musical performances, fun activities, a trackless train, hot cocoa, photos with Santa, and a first-time appearance by the Grinch Who DJ'd Christmas.

Residents are welcome to stroll the downtown area to listen to carolers, appreciate the downtown business window displays, and visit merchants' open houses.

Scam alert

Texts claiming to come from the United States Postal Service claiming that they can't deliver your package is a scam. BE AWARE.

Information this week

Reimagining Benicia Road

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!
The County of Solano invites you to help plan the potential future of Benicia Road by participating in a three-day design workshop to help provide a clear, community-supported vision for the area.

BENICIA ROAD DESIGN WORKSHOP
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH - 1170 BENICIA ROAD - VALLEJO
Refreshments will be served!

THURSDAY DEC. 7th	OPEN HOUSE DROP-IN: 6:00 PM Share your ideas for a safer and more walkable neighborhood along Benicia Road. • What types and scale of housing would support residents of all ages and incomes? • What improvements are needed to attract neighborhood supporting businesses? • How do we make Benicia Road greener and more sustainable? INITIAL PRESENTATION: 7:00 PM • Hear an overview from Solano County Planning about this three-day workshop intended to bring you together with designers, builders, and architects to design best practice and practical ideas to shape the potential future of Benicia Road.
FRIDAY DEC. 8th	OPEN HOUSE DROP-IN: 6:00-7:30 PM • View initial sketchup drawings from the ideas shared at Thursday's open house and provide your feedback.
SATURDAY DEC. 9th	SUMMARY PRESENTATION: 6:00-7:30 PM • Come see how two days of community input guided the final design proposal. Potential outcomes could include changes in building design standards, street improvements, or alternative zoning for land uses to support future housing and retail shops.

SOLANO COUNTY
Department of Resource Management
Division of Planning Services
COUNTY OFFICE
www.solanocounty.gov/Planning
675 Texas Street, Suite 9000
Fairfield, CA 94533

Workshop Location: Second Baptist Church,
1170 Benicia Road, Vallejo, CA 94591

Solano County officials invite residents to help plan the potential future of Benicia Road in the city of Vallejo by participating in a three-day design workshop to help provide a clear, community-supported vision for the area.

The three-day Benicia Road Design Workshop from Thursday, December 7 to Saturday, December 9 will be held at Second Baptist Church, 1170 Benicia Road.

There will be an open house and initial presentation on **Thursday, December 7.**

The open house drop-in will begin at 6pm and will allow residents to share ideas for a safer and more walkable neighborhood along Benicia Road. Questions include: What types and scale of housing would support residents of all ages and incomes? What improvements are needed to attract neighborhood supporting businesses? How do we make Benicia Road greener and more sustainable?

The initial presentation will start at 7pm, allowing residents to hear an overview from Solano County Planning about this three-day workshop intended to bring you together with designers, builders, and architects to design-test creative and practical ideas to shape the potential future of Benicia Road.

On Friday, December 8, there will be an open house drop-in from 6 to 7:30pm. View initial sketches drawn from the ideas shared at Thursday's open house and provide feedback.

Finally, on Saturday, December 9, there will be a summary presentation from 6 to 7:30pm. Come see how two days of community input guided the final design proposal. Potential outcomes could include changes in building design standards, street improvements, or alternative zoning for land uses to support future housing and retail shops.

For more details, click [here](#).

New Vet Center in Fairfield



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

On Friday, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced the addition of three new Vet Centers and six Vet Center Outstations (smaller satellite locations) to improve access to

counseling for Veterans and service members.

One of the locations is in the city of Fairfield.

Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief, and transition after trauma. Vet Center teams proactively work in the community, reducing barriers to care and improving access to care.

The Solano County Vet Center Outstation will be located at 420 Executive Ct. N, Suite A, Fairfield and is anticipated to open in early 2024.

Medicare Open Enrollment

From now until December 7, those already enrolled in Medicare can make changes to their current health plan and those who now qualify can enroll. Existing health and drug plans can make changes to their cost, coverage, and provider/pharmacy network each year, so it's important to review which plans best fit your needs.

If you make less than \$22,000 per year (\$30,000 for married couples), you may qualify for "Medicare Part D Extra Help." This program could cut your Medicare Part D drug costs to no more than \$4.15 for generic prescriptions and \$10.35 for brand-name drug prescriptions.

For more information, click [here](#).

Need a ride to the doctor?

You can now get a ride to and from your doctor visits at no charge. As a Kaiser Permanente Medicare health plan member, you can get a ride to and from your appointments at no cost. Your plan covers up to 24 one-way trips (50 miles per trip) per calendar year.

To schedule a ride for rideshare, taxi, or private transportation service, call 1-877-930-1477 (TTY 711). You can also schedule online at medicaltrip.net or download the MTM Link Member app. To download the app on your device, visit the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android) and search for MTM Link Member App.

For wheelchair van or gurney van transportation service, call 1-833-226-6760.

Request your ride at least 3 business days (Monday through Friday) before your appointment. If you have an urgent last-minute appointment, call as soon as you can.

You can get rides for doctor appointments, medical services such as lab or X-ray, and picking up medications or medical equipment. This benefit is limited to Kaiser Medicare members who had coverage through an employer or who were also on Medi-Cal.

Need Help Paying Your Energy Bill? These Programs Can Help

This winter, colder weather and darker skies may cause your energy bill to climb. Did you know our local electricity provider,

MCE, can help keep these costs down? Take advantage of these tips and tricks to save with small changes at home, and see if you qualify for any discount or bill relief programs.

Tips and Tricks:

- **Don't use big electric appliances between 4-9 p.m.**, when electricity costs more. Small changes like doing laundry in the morning, preheating your home early in the day, and using fewer lights can make a big difference in your bill.
- **Consider switching to energy-efficient holiday lighting.** Holiday lights use [65 kilowatt-hours a month](#) on average. That's almost as much as your [refrigerator](#)! Switch to LED and solar-powered options to save on your bill.
- **Use timers and smart-strips.** Electronics draw electricity any time they're plugged in, even when not in use! Using the on-off switch on a smart-strip outlet and putting lighting on timers to turn on and off automatically can help dramatically. It's estimated that these "vampire" appliances represent [up to 10%](#) of your annual energy usage.

Bill Savings Programs:

- [California Alternate Rates for Energy \(CARE\)](#) provides discounts of 35% on electricity and 20% on gas costs for income-qualifying homes.
- [Family Electric Rate Assistance \(FERA\)](#) offers an 18% monthly electric bill discount for income-qualifying households of 3 or more people.
- [Medical Baseline Allowance](#) offers savings for residents with a qualifying medical device or medical condition and extra notifications in advance of a Public Safety Power Shutoff.

Late Payment and Debt Relief:

- The [Arrearage Management Plan](#) offers debt-forgiveness up to \$8,000 to customers who have fallen behind on monthly bills. Customers must be enrolled in the [CARE or FERA](#) programs and be 90 days past due on at least \$500 of their energy bill.
- The [Relief for Energy Assistance Through Community Help](#) program offers a one-time energy bill credit up to \$300 when a sudden hardship occurs and households need additional support.
- The [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) offers up to \$3,000 in assistance with energy costs in addition to [free energy efficiency upgrades](#).

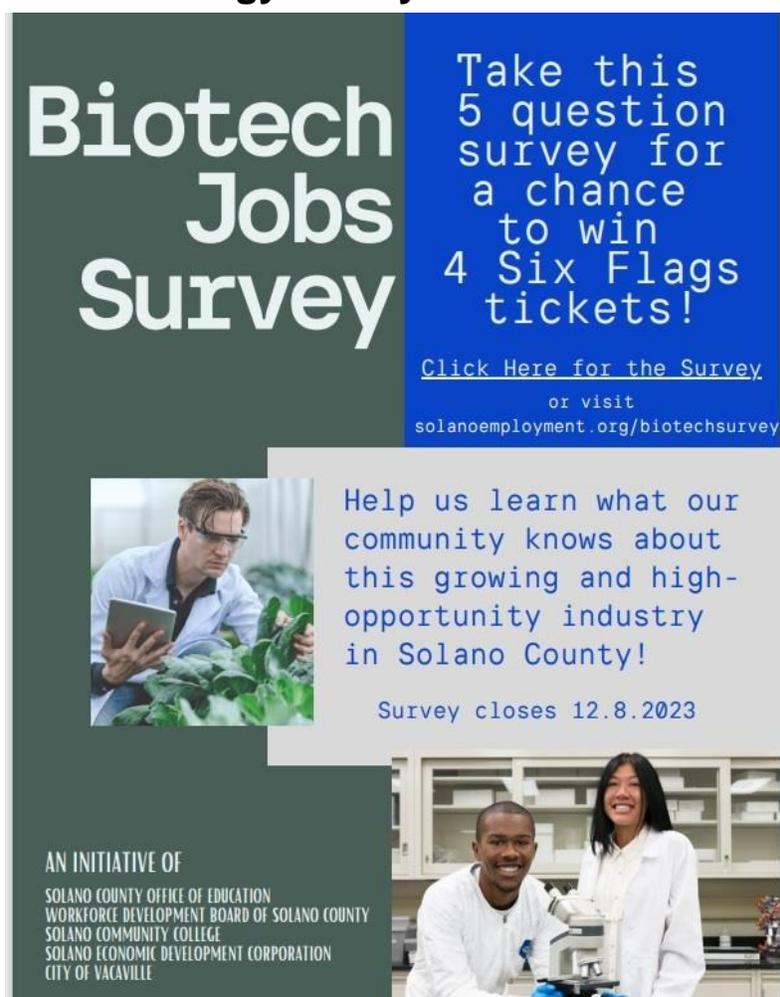
If you have questions about your electricity bill or any of these programs, please contact MCE at info@mceCleanEnergy.org or 1 (888) 632-3674 Mon-Fri: 9 am-5 pm.

BART, Muni to receive bulk of Bay Area transit's \$776 million bailout, if they address fare evasion

[BART](#) and the [San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency](#) will receive the overwhelming majority of \$776 million in state and regional subsidies for Bay Area transit — if they take certain steps to address ongoing fare evasion on their trains and buses.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

Biotechnology survey



Biotech Jobs Survey

Take this 5 question survey for a chance to win 4 Six Flags tickets!

[Click Here for the Survey](#)
or visit
solanoemployment.org/biotechsurvey

Help us learn what our community knows about this growing and high-opportunity industry in Solano County!

Survey closes 12.8.2023

AN INITIATIVE OF
SOLANO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF SOLANO COUNTY
SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SOLANO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
CITY OF VACAVILLE

The graphic features a dark green background with white text for the title and agency information. A blue box contains the survey details. A central white box with a light blue border contains the survey purpose and deadline. Two images are included: a man in a lab coat looking at a tablet in a field, and a man and woman in lab coats in a laboratory setting.

Various local agencies have released a biotechnology survey for students and families in Solano County.

Anyone may complete this survey and will help the agencies to understand what people already know about biotechnology. Complete the survey for a chance for four free tickets to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in the city of Vallejo. **Survey will close December 8 with the raffle winner announced by December 13.**

To take the survey, click [here](#).

Public hearings

Fairfield Forward 2050 City Council Study Session: Preferred Plan

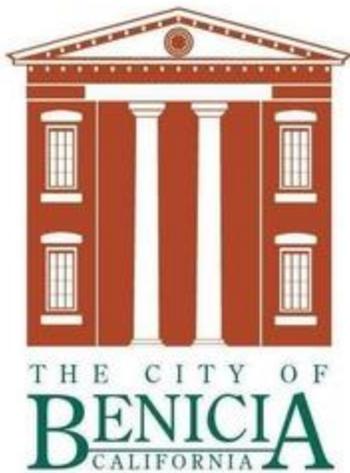


On December 19, the Fairfield City Council will hold a study session on the General Plan Preferred Plan. The Preferred Plan communicates the community's vision for how the City will grow and develop over the next 25+ years and provides the foundation for more detailed policies.

The Council has held six study sessions over the past 22 months on the Preferred Plan and provided direction at the meeting on September 12. At the December 19 session, the Council will be asked to confirm direction of the Preferred Plan guiding policies and provide any additional ideas or suggestions to be reflected in the General Plan document, which will be developed in the coming months.

Fairfield Forward 2050: Preferred Plan Study Session will take on **Tuesday, December 19, from 6 to 8pm** inside the Harry T. Price Memorial Council Chamber, 1000 Webster Street.

Benicia Parks, Trails, Open Space Master Plan



The city of Benicia began the process of updating the 1997 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan in 2021. After extensive community input, the Parks and Community Services Department has completed a draft of the Master Plan for public review.

The document is in its final form regarding recommendations provided by the community for improvements to the parks, trails and open space system. The draft was presented to the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Commission on Oct. 18, 2023, at which time public input on the draft was welcomed.

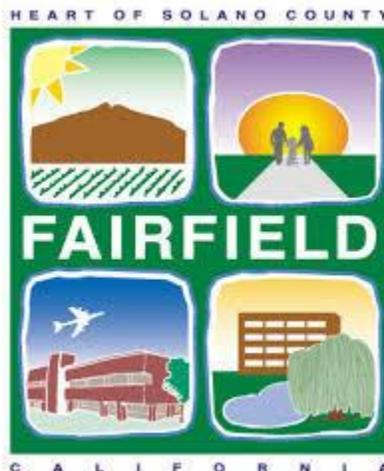
The document will go back to the Commission in January 2024. In the interim, the community is welcome to review the draft and provide comment for consideration by the Commission. [Submit comments here.](#)

The deadline to submit a comment is December 10.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan workshops in December

The city of Fairfield Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (PROSMP) is a comprehensive guide for city parks, recreational programming, and development that will inform improvements and funding for years to come.

More specifically, the PROSMP will determine how we improve, expand, repurpose, prioritize, maintain, staff, and fund our community's park assets and recreational opportunities.



The public is invited to attend two upcoming workshops, on December 6 and 7 from 6 to 8pm, to share ideas and opinions about the future of Fairfield's parks and recreational programming. The December 6 workshop will be held in English at Willow Hall in the Community Center on 1000 Kentucky Street. The December 7 workshop will be held in

Spanish at the Library in Grange Middle School on 1975 Blossom Avenue.

To register, click [here](#).

Updates from around Solano County

Solano County Sheriff's Office Apprehends Suspect in hate crime vandalism



The Solano County Sheriff's Office Investigations Team has arrested a suspect in connection with a hate crime vandalism incident that occurred at Thompson's Corner Saloon, in unincorporated Fairfield, the sheriff's office announced this week.

On August 8, someone spray painted red swastikas and racial slurs on the exterior walls of the saloon. A tip from a community member drew attention to several racial slurs posted on social media specifically targeting Thompson's Corner Saloon. Warrants for digital evidence from the social media provider, successfully uncovering the account responsible for the offensive posts. Officials also said the same individual matched the physical description of the suspect captured in the surveillance footage and resided in close proximity to the targeted business.

This week, the Solano Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at the suspect's apartment. Substantial evidence directly linking the individual to the crime was recovered. Following a comprehensive interview, the suspect, identified as 26-year-old Brendan Moore of Fairfield, admitted to the criminal act of defacing the property with hate speech.

Moore was arrested and taken into custody and is facing pending charges related to the vandalism.

Congratulations to Sheriff Tom Ferrara and his office for getting this individual off of our streets.

MoHB Christmas Tree Lot



The Museum of History Benicia is offering Christmas Trees for sale from now to Christmas. Help your local community museum and find your perfect Christmas Tree all at the same time.

The Museum of History Benicia lot is located at 900 East 2nd Street in downtown Benicia. For more information, click [here](#).

Road officials seek public input on proposed toll lane on I-80 between Sacramento, Davis

The Yolo Transportation District and the California Department of Transportation are seeking public input on a [proposed toll lane connecting Sacramento and Davis](#). To learn more, click [here](#).

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Library



The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Library moved to a new location on Mare Island and is now open to the public. The library contains a large collection of Navy and Mare Island-related books, manuals, maps, and files covering over 1,000 different topics.

The library is located on the east side of the building on the ground floor at 1175 Nimitz Avenue on Mare Island and is typically open to the public on **Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.**

For access during posted hours, please call for volunteer availability at (707) 557-4646

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For access during posted hours, please call for volunteer availability at (707) 557-4646

Point-In-Time Count 2024 Volunteer recruitment

Register to Volunteer Today!

Solano
**POINT
IN TIME
COUNT**

JPA
CAP Solano



What is a Point-in-Time Count?

The Point In Time (PIT) Count is a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. This is a requirement by HUD to be conducted every other year.

The PIT Count provides data that is used to determine funding from the State and Federal Government to help provide better programs and services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

When: January 31, 2024
Time: 5:30AM – 10:00AM

For more information or to sign up to volunteer:
Visit <https://solano24.pointintime.info/>
or scan the QR Code from your mobile device



For any additional questions, please reach out to:

Becky Farris
PIT Coordinator
rlfarris@solanocounty.com

The Community Action Partnership Solano Joint Powers Authority is looking for volunteers to help with the Point-In-Time (PIT) count next January. The PIT count is a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

This is a requirement by **United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** to be conducted every other year. The PIT Count provides data that is used to determine funding from the State and Federal Government to help provide better programs and services to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. How can you participate:

1. Register to volunteer on the [Volunteer Registration Portal](#)
2. Reach out to family, friends, and co-workers to volunteer for the count

Solano Water Stories



Solano Water Stories exhibition, designed by artist and educator Mary Shaw, is part of a larger Arts Benicia grant project called *Stewarding our Resources: Solano Artists Create, Collaborate, and Educate*, funded by the California Creative Corps, a program of the California Arts Council. The project is engaging artists in creating original material to be used to educate Californians about water conservation and climate mitigation.

Solano Water Stories is about the history of water, water conservation, and climate change mitigation practices in Solano County. Designed for all ages, this exhibition includes information about historic, indigenous, and current urban, rural and agricultural land and water use as well as ongoing conservation practices. It includes a pop-up reading room, original artworks, personal water stories, a poetry corner, maps, videos, photographs, and additional information gathered from our partner organizations: Sustainable Solano, Solano Resource Conservation District, Solano Land Trust, and the Solano County Water Agency.

On view at Arts Benicia **November 18 – December 17**, Solano Water Stories exhibition aims to facilitate a deeper understanding of the problems facing the upcoming generation and the solutions that may already be partly in place, upon which they can improve. *Solano Water Stories* is about Solano County water conservation in the face of climate change, community engagement, and hope for a sustainable future.

For more information, click [here](#).

Benicia Lyft rides



The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) will pay a portion of your Lyft rides throughout the City of Benicia, and to Springtowne Center in Vallejo. These rides are valid only to specific destinations and between the hours of 6am to 9pm for Benicia residents. To qualify you must be an older adult (65+), a veteran, or ADA eligible. If your pickup or

drop-off is outside the specified areas, the discount is not valid. More questions? Call the mobility call center: [1-800-535-6883](tel:1-800-535-6883)

Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging Request for Proposals

The Napa/Solano Area Agency on Aging is excited to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) to support services to seniors and

disabled adults. Services include senior nutrition, case management, transportation, visiting, ombudsman, legal assistance, home care assistance, emergency aid and assistance.

The deadline for proposal submission is January 17, 2024 at 5pm.

For more details or to apply to the RFP, click [here](#). Contact Nesmith Despabiladeras at nadespadilaeras@solanocounty.com or at (707) 784-6322 for any questions.

Upcoming events in Solano County

Holiday Open House and tree lighting

Benicia's annual Holiday Open House and tree lighting will take place tonight, **Friday, December 1 from 6 to 9pm** along First Street.

Merchants offer beverages and treats and show off their holiday goods while costumed carolers sing traditional Christmas tunes.

Live entertainment and Christmas Tree lighting add a festive atmosphere!

Photos with Santa



No matter if you've been naughty or nice this year, you have another chance to get a photo taken with Jolly Old Saint Nicholas!

Bring your family to the Saturday Vallejo Farmer's Market from **9am to 2pm, Saturday, December 2** at 418 Georgia Street

Buy a ticket for \$25, secure your spot, and skip the line. Proceeds benefit the [Humane Society of the North Bay](#).

Santa welcomes humans, canines, and felines to participate! To buy a ticket, click [here](#).

Women and Money Conference



WORKSHOPS:

- The Basics of Personal Finance
- Women Empowering Women: Breaking the Barrier on the ABCs of Women and Money
- Empowered Through Home Ownership: Expert Insights, From Credit to Closing
- We Spend More Time Preparing for a One Week Vacation than for 30 Years of Retirement: Let's Start Planning
- An Educational Workshop For Women; Planning for the Future



Keynote Speaker: Courtney Bolger
Realtor | DRE 02048878
EXP Realty of California, Inc.
*Building Dreams, Bridging Gaps:
Unlocking the Path to Homeownership*



REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Free event! Scan the code (left) or at the link below before Nov 28th: tinyurl.com/wmconference2023

Event Partners:



Supported by Solano County Board of Supervisors



For more info: FriendsOfSCWG@gmail.com [solanocommissionwomensgirls.com](https://www.solanocommissionwomensgirls.com)

The first county-wide Women and Money Conference will be from **9am to 1pm on Saturday, December 2** at the Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street in the city of Fairfield.

The workshop will include the basics of personal finance, women empowering women, among others.

The conference is made possible by your support and from a grant the Friends of the Solano Commission for Women and Girls received from the California Commission on the Status of Women.

For more information, click [here](#).

Ornament making for teens

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT MAKING FOR TEENS

Learn how to create
a beautiful holiday
ornament with
washi tape!

Make one for yourself
or a friend or loved one!



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
4PM
FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

For more information,
visit solanolibrary.com/events

On **Tuesday, December 5 at 4pm**, the Fairfield Civic Center Library will be having a holiday ornament making program for teens.

Teens who attend will get the chance to create a beautiful holiday ornament using washi tape and ribbons. This is a free program.

The Fairfield Civic Center Library is located at 1150 Kentucky Street in the city of Fairfield.

2023 Chemical Emergency Preparedness Summit

Join Solano Public Health as they host their 2023 Chemical Emergency Preparedness Summit on **December 5 & 6 at the Solano County Events Center in Fairfield from 8:30am to 4:30pm.**

This year's theme focuses on tackling chemical emergencies in our facilities and communities. EMS Personnel can earn up to 13.5 CEUs for attending this event. Registration is free. To secure your spot and receive updates, click [here](#).

The summit will be held in the County Events Center Conference Room A, 601 Texas Street in downtown Fairfield.

Virtual Healthy Solano meeting

The next Healthy Solano Meeting will take place virtually on **Thursday, December 7, from noon to 1:30pm**. During this meeting, there will be an update regarding the 2023 Solano Public Health Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and a presentation from Solano Public Health's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Bureau on their Five-Year Needs Assessment.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 239 649 725 84 Passcode: psbPRo

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-457-3408,,137271726#](#) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 137 271 726#

Holiday hula performance

Solano County
LIBRARY

Web: solanolibrary.com
Phone: 1-866-572-7587
f @ solanolibrary

HALE HULA O' NA PUA
HOLIDAY HULA PERFORMANCE



Enjoy the aloha spirit this holiday season
with Hale Hula O Na Pua
as they perform to such favorites as
"Jingle Bell Rock" and "White Christmas."

**FAIRFIELD CIVIC
CENTER LIBRARY** | **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
10 AM**

For more information,
visit solanolibrary.com/events

On **Saturday, December 9 at 10am**, the Hale Hula O Na Pua group will be hula dancing at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street.

They will hula dance to holiday song favorites like White Christmas and Jingle Bell Rock. This is an all-ages program so all are welcome to attend.

Christmas Parade

The Benicia Christmas Parade will take place on **Saturday, December 9, from 10am to 3pm**. The parade starts at First and D Street and ends at H Street. It will feature local marching bands, dancers, and Santa Claus.

December Cultural Celebrations: Poetry Open Mic



FAIRFIELD POET LAUREATE SUZANNE BRUCE IS HOSTING:

DECEMBER CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

POETRY OPEN MIC

LET'S CELEBRATE THE MANY DECEMBER HOLIDAYS THROUGH FESTIVE VERSE. DAVID BELT, ARMIJO HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH TEACHER, WILL BE PLAYING THE VIOLIN FOR US!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023
1:00PM - 3:00PM
FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY
1150 KENTUCKY STREET, FAIRFIELD

*POETS MAY BRING THEIR BOOKS TO SELL
*10% OF SALES DONATED TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Fairfield Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce is hosting a December Cultural Celebrations Poetry Open Mic from **1 to 3pm, Saturday, December 9**, at the Fairfield Civic Center Library, 1150 Kentucky Street in the city of Fairfield.

Violinist David Belt will also be performing. Poets may sell their books (10% of sales to be donated to Friends of the Library).

Benicia Fire Toy Drive



The Benicia Fire Department is now accepting toys for donation to local kids in need. Please bring new, unwrapped toys to any of the fire department's collection bins by **December 10**. New stuffed animals are also accepted.

Santa Claus is also visiting the Benicia Fire Department at Fire Station 11, 150 Military West, on **Saturday, December 9 from 3 to 6pm**. When you come to get your picture taken, you can also bring your toy for donation.

Collection bin locations:

- Fire Station 11 (150 Military West)
- Fire Station 12 (601 Hastings)
- City Hall (250 East L)
- Benicia Public Library (150 East L)
- Senior Center (187 East L)
- Community Center (370 East L)
- All Benicia Starbucks locations

Call (707) 746-4275 for more information.

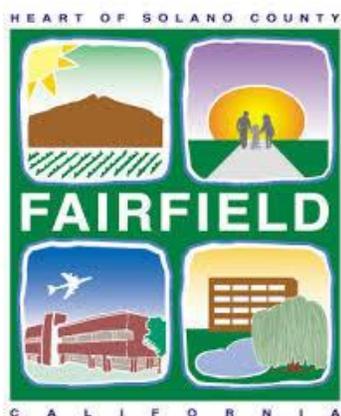
Second Annual Chanukah Celebration

Benicia's Second Annual Chanukah celebration will take place on **Sunday, December 10, the fourth night of Chanukah, at the City Park Gazebo at 4pm.**

The events included in the eight days are the fourth night lighting on the 10th, the congregation B'nai Israel, Rabbi David White and

friends bless the candles and sing holiday songs on the sixth night on the 12th, Benicia Solano Jewish Women's Network hosts the annual Megan Campbell Memorial Menorah lighting and Chanukah story telling and songs on the 13th, and the 14th is hosted by Solano Napa Hadassah Chapter, who will light the candles on that final night

Annual Menorah Lighting on December 11 in Downtown Fairfield



The city of Fairfield, in partnership with the Chabad of Solano County, announced the third annual Fairfield Menorah Lighting Ceremony, located in Downtown Fairfield. The event will take place on **Monday, December 11, and begin at 5:30 pm**. It will be held on the County Greens at the corner of Texas and Jefferson Streets. Rabbi Zaklos and Fairfield Mayor Moy will light the Menorah during the evening ceremony.

Festivities following the lighting ceremony include family entertainment, hot latkes, donuts, and Chanukah cookies.

Contact Special Events Coordinator, Andrea Azurdia at aazurdia@fairfield.ca.gov or (707) 399-4101 with any questions or for more information.

Healing our Future: Addressing Black Maternal and Infant Health in Solano County Seminar

Solano County Supervisor Wanda Williams, Black Women Organized for Political Action Solano/Napa Chapter & Solano County Health and Social Services presents their seminar Healing Our Future: Addressing Black Maternal and Infant Health in Solano County scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 11:30am to 1:30pm in Fairfield.

The program will be held at the Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield.

Sponsorship opportunities and booth space is available. For more information, contact Latessa Wilson Alford at llwilsonalford@solanocounty.com.

Back to Basics Class available

The Benicia Adult Education is offering a Back to Basics Class: A Sampler on Self-Sufficiency Living. It is a 16-week course that will cover topics such as growing food and herbs at home, beekeeping, keeping chickens, various methods of gardening, composting and making kombucha.

Tuition is \$250 and students will earn a certificate. **The class begins on January 20, 2024 and runs through May 4, 2024.** Classes are on Saturdays from 10 to 11am and will be held at the Benicia Adult School at 350 East K St., Room 7. To register, click [here](#).

Solano Community College crab and shrimp feed

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Crab & Shrimp Feed

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Captain Bob's Dive Bar

OPEN LATE!

Fresh Dungeness crab and extra jumbo sized shrimp, pasta, salad and garlic bread. Rotisserie chicken option with special order. Delightful ice cream desserts available from IT'S-IT.

Enjoy Captain Bob's Dive Bar with a live band & dancing, plus frozen margaritas, pina colodas, micro brews on tap from Heretic and fine wine from Suisun Valley.

\$75

Event Location & Time
Solano Community College
Student Center/Bookstore (1400 Bldg.)
4000 Suisun Valley Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
Saturday, March 2nd
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Dive Bar till about 10:00 p.m.

Early Bird price \$70 during November. Large parties of 20-38 may sit at one table at the \$70 price (no additional discount). Sponsorships start at \$500. Call Curt or Eileen at 707-864-7199.

THANKS TO OUR PAST MAJOR SPONSORS:

PC&E KITCHELL TRAVIS CREDIT UNION REPUBLIC POWER WESTERN HILLS LANDFILL TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE AT&T

All proceeds benefit the SCC Educational Foundation. To purchase tickets call Eileen Amick at 707-864-7199 or go to our event webpage below:
<https://foundation.solano.edu/event/2024-crab-shrimp-feed/>

The Solano Community College Educational Foundation will hold a crab and shrimp feed on **Saturday, March 2, 2024** inside the 1400 building at 4000 Suisun Valley Road, in the city of Fairfield. The early bird price is \$70 through the month of November.

For more information, and/or to buy tickets, click [here](#).

Events I attended this week

Tuesday, November 21, my son and I delivered Thanksgiving Dinners made by the CAC (Community Action Council) to folks in Benicia through their Senior Meal Service. Then we went to Pizza Pirate and ran into Mayor Steve Young.

That evening I attended the Harry Price Memorial Council Chamber Dedication Program. The weather was perfect. The ceremony was perfect. The mayor spoke, Poet Laureate Suzanne Bruce wrote a loving tribute.

Saturday, November 25, was Small Business Saturday. I was in Benicia, Vallejo and Fairfield. The Benicia Veteran's Center sold Hot Dogs. Thank you, Oren, after walking all morning, eating a hot dog was perfect. In Fairfield, I ran into my friend Ana as we shopped the pop ups on Texas Street.

Sunday, November 26, I walked Sandy Beach to drop off personally the information as we work on the water issue for many of the homes. The day was just nice. Weather was a perfect Fall day.

Thursday, November 30, I spent the afternoon at John Finney High School GSA/ book club in the city of Vallejo. I want to thank teacher Steve Quinlan for the invitation. I enjoyed my time discussing the issues of banned books with the students. Thank you to all as this is another example of the village working with our students.



From left to right: Starry Eigenman, librarian at the Vallejo John F. Kennedy Library, John Finney High School teacher Steve Quinlan and Supervisor Monica Brown.

Looking for a job? Consider these links

If you or someone you know is looking for a job, please consider a career with Solano County. Click [HERE](#) to access the website and follow on Facebook [@SolanoCountyJobs](#). Please also consider these other employment resources, including:

[STATE OF CALIFORNIA](#)

[CITY OF BENICIA](#)

[CITY OF FAIRFIELD](#)

[CITY OF VALLEJO](#)

[SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

[BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[VALLEJO SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

[POST OFFICE](#)

[GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT](#)

[YOUTH JOBS CORPS](#)

[CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS](#)

[SOLANO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT](#)

[FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT](#)

Newsletter photo

Benicia's Christmas tree. Photo: Monica Brown.



First elected in 2016, Monica represents District 2 on the Solano County Board of Supervisors. District 2 encompasses the city of Benicia, the portion of Vallejo south of Georgia Street, Mare Island, Cordelia, Green Valley and a portion of Fairfield.